



Bible Translation FAQs

What is the need?

Our world speaks more than 7,000 languages, but a full Bible exists in just 795 of them. That leaves 1.5 billion people without a full Bible in the language they know best. The need includes 3,200 languages spoken by 123 million people with zero access to Scripture at all.

How does it work?

Local teams of believers receive the training, technology, and support they need to translate the Bible into their language. Linguistic and exegetical complexities are overcome through consulting and community checking.

Where do you start?

We always start with the portion of Scripture most likely to create immediate impact for evangelism, worship, and discipleship in the local church community. Translation goals differ depending on the religious and cultural context of the language community.

How long does it take?

Timelines vary based on the context and complexity of the project. A whole host of political, cultural, linguistic, and geographic factors influence the pace. A clear and accurate rendering of the New Testament typically takes about seven years while a full Bible takes about 16 years.

How much does it cost?

Just like timelines, costs vary based on the location, context, and complexity of the translation project. On average, a translation project requires between \$50,000 and \$80,000 of support each year from faithful supporters like you.

What about the Deaf?

There are 350+ Sign Languages used globally. Like spoken languages, they are specific to local communities. Signed Bibles are filmed as a video series—typically chronological Bible stories or complete books of the Bible. The first full 66-book Sign Language Bible (American) launched in 2020.





What about oral cultures? Can't we just use tech?

Bible stories are often the first Scriptures translated for oral cultures. This builds momentum toward written or audio translations of the Bible. We serve these projects through our [Audio Video Translation Tool \(AVTT\)](#).

Translation is deeply spiritual work. Differences between languages means that translators are always interpreting biblical meaning. So, while technology can accelerate the pace, it never replaces the work of local believers.

Does ABS have partners? What is the final goal?

We're part of United Bible Societies—a global network of local Bible Societies serving in over 240 countries and territories around the world. Together, we are members of the *illumiNations* alliance, working to eradicate Bible poverty in this generation.

Ultimately, God's people must decide. Our shared ideal, called the "Every Verse Current Goal," is to have every *verse* in every *language* translated in as many *versions* and with as many *revisions* as it would serve the expressed need of God's church.



Experience the joy
of Bible translation!

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